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## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

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SINCE the Annual Meeting of May 12, 1897, the Academy has lost by death eighteen members: — seven Resident Fellows, Alvan Graham Clark, Benjamin Eddy Cotting, Alonzo Smith Kimball, John Lowell, Theodore Lyman, Jules Marcou, and Justin Winsor; three Associate Fellows, Alfred Marshall Mayer, William Augustus Rogers, and James Hammond Trumbull; and eight Foreign Honorary Members, Sir Henry Bessemer, Francesco Brioschi, Alfred Louis Olivier Legrand Des Cloiseaux, Pascual de Gayangos, Rudolf Leuckart, Victor Meyer, Julius von Sachs, and Johannes Japetus Smith Steenstrup.

### BENJAMIN EDDY COTTING.

OUR late associate, Doctor BENJAMIN EDDY COTTING, enjoyed the rather rare opportunity of serving two Institutions for nearly fifty years. As Curator of the Lowell Institute, he held office for over half a century.

Add to this a professional life of sixty years, of which three-fourths was active, and we have a remarkable record. A calm temperament and continuous health enabled him to do all this with comparative ease to himself, and with benefit to others. He had a happy faculty of throwing off care, of working easily, of taking recreation between work. All of us remember him as a charming host, genial, bright, self-forgetful.

In making and keeping medicine respectable, honest and honorable, no doctor in Massachusetts ever played a more useful part. He might be styled the father, if not the founder, of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and was a financial backer and warm supporter of our local Medical Journal.

It was of great benefit, as well as a pleasure to him, to share the society and to follow the guidance of men of the sciences, other than

medical. He enjoyed immensely the position of active patron of the Lowell Lectures. He was very punctual and conscientious in his attendance at the opening of all these courses.

He was a constant attendant at, and an occasional contributor to the meetings of the Academy. He took a keen interest in the practical welfare of the society and of its members.

Dr. Cotting was a sceptic; his habit of mind was negative in belief. This applied to his own medical belief and to all the range of psychical events. He was a good observer, and clear-headed in his views. He was a positivist but not a dogmatist. He had many virtues which are called old-fashioned, and he was obstinate in his convictions.

His benevolence was self-sacrificing, and therein differed from common giving,—in faith nothing, in charity all. Those virtues which were fundamental in the Puritan remained vital in him; they were tempered by great kindness, but never weakened by concession. The frittering attrition of modern luxury and material advancement softens or weakens most characters,—a few, like our deceased brother's, remain sharp, clear-cut, in all time, like the basalt or granite of Egypt.

DAVID W. CHEEVER.

#### ALVAN GRAHAM CLARK.

IN St. Paul's cathedral is a simple tablet, and on it are these words, "Si monumentum requiris circumspice." To epitomize the life of a noted man is not an easy task. To remove the difficulty by entering upon a panegyric and an extension of details is less promising still. It remains, then, to carve a simple tablet by speaking briefly of his life and work, leaving to the good judgment and recollection of the reader the supreme prerogative of accurately filling in the details.

ALVAN GRAHAM CLARK was born in Fall River, Mass., July 10, 1832, and died in Cambridgeport, June 9, 1897. His father, Alvan Clark, was born in Ashfield, Mass., March 8, 1804, and was a descendant of Thomas Clark, one of the early Pilgrim settlers. His mother was Maria (Pease) Clark. He had two sisters and one brother, George Bassett Clark, who was born in Lowell, February 14, 1827, and died in Cambridge, January 2, 1892.

The life of Alvan G. Clark is largely involved in the establishment and progress of the optical firm of which he was a member. His father, Alvan Clark, the founder of the firm, was originally a portrait painter, and early developed an unusual capacity for delicate manipulation. His